

STATE OF IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
UTILITIES BOARD

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| IN RE: MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY | DOCKET NO. RPU-2014-0002 |
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**ORDER GRANTING REQUEST FOR CONFIDENTIALITY
FILED OCTOBER 10, 2014**

(Issued October 22, 2014)

On October 10, 2014, MidAmerican Energy Company (MidAmerican) filed with the Utilities Board (Board) a request for confidential treatment of certain information filed on October 10, 2014, as part of MidAmerican's application for determination of ratemaking principles for a wind-powered generation project known as Wind IX. The information for which confidential treatment is sought includes cost and related revenue information for the proposed wind project as well as critical infrastructure information as defined by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. MidAmerican supported the request for confidentiality with affidavits by corporate officers. The material for which confidentiality was requested was filed separately and marked confidential. MidAmerican cited Iowa Code §§ 22.7(3) and 22.7(6) (2013) as authority for confidential treatment of the data.

MidAmerican claims the information is a report to a governmental agency that, if released, would give advantage to competitors and serve no public purpose and, therefore, should be held confidential pursuant to § 22.7(6). MidAmerican states

disclosure of the information would harm MidAmerican's negotiating leverage because potential vendors could calculate the cost cap for the project with the cost and revenue data. MidAmerican also said the information would allow competitors to accurately estimate the costs of power and energy sold in the wholesale markets. With respect to the critical infrastructure information, MidAmerican said its disclosure could threaten public safety.

The information in question qualifies as a report to a government agency. Based on the affidavits submitted by MidAmerican, release of such information serves no public purpose. Therefore, the Board will hold the information confidential pursuant to Iowa Code § 22.7(6).

The filed information may also be confidential as a trade secret pursuant to Iowa Code §§ 22.7(3) and 550.2(4). However, because the Board finds the information should be held confidential under § 22.7(6), the Board does not reach the question of whether the information is a trade secret or a communication not required by law.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. The request for confidentiality filed by MidAmerican Energy Company on October 10, 2014, is granted.

2. The information shall be held confidential by the Board subject to the provisions of 199 IAC 1.9(8)"b"(3).

UTILITIES BOARD

/s/ Nick Wagner

ATTEST:

/s/ Joan Conrad
Executive Secretary

/s/ Sheila K. Tipton

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 22nd day of October 2014.